

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 04370 191032Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 DLOS-04 EB-07 OFA-01 EA-07 NEA-10

SAM-01 OIC-02 IO-10 /105 W

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R 190944Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3139

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5419

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC

SUBJECT: US LEADERSHIP IN ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS

REF: A. STATE 167410

B. USNATO 3114

C. USNATO 3936

1. WE WELCOME THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE (REF A) TO OUR INITIAL GENERAL PROPOSALS ON EXERCISING US LEADERSHIP IN ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS. FURTHER TO REF A, REF C ADDRESSED SPECIFIC DEFENSE-ORIENTED ASPECTS OF CONSULTATIONS, OTHER MESSAGES HAVE TREATED CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE, AND THIS MESSAGE, COVERING PROPOSED NAC CONSULTATIONS, IS ANOTHER IN THE SERIES SUGGESTING SPECIFIC CONSULTATION PROGRAMS. FURTHER MESSAGES WILL RELATE TO ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS AND CONSULTATION INITIATIVES IN THE SPC AND POLADS.

2. BEARING IN MIND THAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO ASSOCIATE SYG LUNS AND KEY ALLIES WITH US CONSULTATIONS INITIATIVES AT AN EARLY STAGE, WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR REINFORCED NAC CONSULTATIONS OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. DEPENDING ON WASHINGTON VIEWS, WE WOULD ENVISAGE DISCUSSIONS LATER THIS MONTH WITH LUNS
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 04370 191032Z

ON THE CONSULTATION SCHEDULE, AND BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THEREAFTER AS APPROPRIATE BEFORE FORMALLY PROPOSING THE CONSULTATIONS TO THE ALLIES GENERALLY.

3. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

EARLY OCTOBER: A REINFORCED NAC ON EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN

DEVELOPMENTS (OR "FAR EAST DEVELOPMENTS" AS ALLIES MAY PREFER TO CALL IT) CONCENTRATING ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ALLIANCE SECURITY OF SHIFTS IN THE ASIAN BALANCE OF POWER AND SINO-SOVIET COMPETITION. WE RECOMMEND THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIV HEAD US PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONSULTATION. ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE CONSULTATION COULD BE TO DEVELOP SOME NAC GUIDELINES FOR NATO FAR EAST REGIONAL EXPERTS' OCTOBER DELIBERATIONS.

LATE OCTOBER: A REINFORCED NAC ON SOVIET POLICY IN EAST-WEST

RELATIONS. WE HAVE IN MIND HERE A FOLLOW-ON TO THE VERY SUCCESSFUL REINFORCED NAC CONSULTATION LAST MARCH AT WHICH COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL RESULTS OF RECENT BILATERAL US-SOVIET CONTACTS, ESPECIALLY THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT, AND AT AWHICH ALLIES RECIPROCATED WITH WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMENTARY ON THEIR PART. OCTOBER TIMING WOULD, OF COURSE, BE CONTINGENT UPON DEVELOPMENTS IN SALT AND THE PLANNED AUTUMN BREZHNEV VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BUT WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, MBFR OPTION III PROSPECTS, AND OTHER KEY DETENTE ISSUES.

LATE NOVEMBER: AS PART OF THE COUNCIL'S REGULAR BI-ANNUAL

WORKLOAD, THE REPORTS OF THE AUTUMN MEETINGS OF NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND MAGHREB AND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN DRAFTING GROUP WOULD BE COMING BEFORE THE COUNCIL FOR ROUTINE CONSIDERATION IN LATE NOVEMBER. WE SUGGEST THE COUNCIL AGREE IN ADVANCE TO GIVE THE WORK OF THESE TWO GROUPS SPECIAL ATTENTION THIS AUTUMN AND THAT THEIR REPORTS BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER BY THE NAC IN REINFORCED SESSION WITH MID-EAST POLICY-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS ATTENDING. WE WOULD HOPE THAT UNDER SECRETARY SISCO OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON WOULD LEAD US PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONSULTATION. THE MISSION RECOGNIZES THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WILL CONTINUE TO POSE SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF HIGH-LEVEL US PARTICIPATION IN CONSULTATIONS BECUASE OF THE DELICACY OF THE US POSITION IN THE AREA. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS THE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES, ALLIED INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT REMAINS INTENSE AND CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 04370 191032Z

THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH WE CAN ELICIT MORE ALLIED SUPPORT IF WE KEEP THEM FOREWARNED OF OUR THINKING. WE WOULD FORESEE THIS SCHEDULED REINFORCED NAC CONSULTATION AS ADDITIONAL TO AD HOC REPORTS OR MESSAGES TO THE COUNCIL OR NATO AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON WHICH INFORM ALLIES OF SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB/ ISRAELI MATTERS.

DECEMBER: THERE WILL, OF COURSE, BE INTENSE INTEREST IN CONSULTING WITH THE SECRETARY DURING AND AROUND THE FRINGES OF THE DECEMBER NAC MINISTERIAL.

LATE JANUARY: NAC REINFORCED BY LAW-OF-THE-SEA EXPERTS IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT LOS SESSION IN MARCH 1976.

4. IN PRESENTING THIS CONSULTATION SCHEDULE TO ALLIES AND LUNS, WE MAY ENCOUNTER RESISTANCE BASED ON SOME PERMREPS' OBJECTION TO THE FORMAT FOLLOWED IN SOME PREVIOUS REINFORCED NACS WHEREBY PERMREPS ATTENDED A DAY-LONG CONSULTATION DURING WHICH THE SPECIFICITY OF THE CONVERSATIONS AMONG EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS SOMETIMES WENT BEYOND WHAT SOME PERMREPS CONSIDERED AS THEIR "NEED TO KNOW". WE WOULD COUNTER THESE OBJECTIONS BY SUGGESTING THAT THE PROCEDURES FOLLOWED HERE DURING SALT CONSULTATIONS AND THOSE USED DURING THE RECENT NATO CONSULTATION ON UN MATTERS MIGHT SERVE AS A MODEL TO MAKE FUTURE REINFORCED COUNCIL SESSIONS MORE ATTRACTIVE TO AMBASSADORS. SPECIFICALLY, THE COUNCIL COULD MEET IN THE MORNING WITH KEY OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS TO DISCUSS MORE GENERAL ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECT; THEN IN THE AFTERNOON THE VISITING OFFICIALS OR EXPERTS COULD REVONVENE LESS FORMALLY TO CONSULT ON THE MORE DETAILED AND ARCANE ASPECTS OF THEIR SPECIALTIES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THE FOREGOING SCHEDULE.BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO04370
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750897/abbrzlmo.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 167410 B. USNATO 3114 C. USNATO 3936
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US LEADERSHIP IN ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC
To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006